

Prairie Bible Institute,  
Three Hills, Alberta.  
December 27, 1938.

Dr J.M. Somerndike  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr Somerndike;

Mrs Hills sent on your letter of November 14th to me and it went to Alaska and back, reaching me here last week. Have faced the matter of going to St Lawrence Island carefully and prayerfully and I feel quite sure that it is the Lord's will for me.

The school term ends on April 4th so there will be good time in which to get ready and leave on the first boat in June. Have had a blessed year here at school and am happy in looking forward to this opportunity offered. I wonder if you have heard of this school. It is non-denominational, a very sane and spiritual school. We have had a close contact with Oscar Lowry in his evangelistic campaign over CFCN in Calgary. Two of his services were broadcasted from here.

Sincerely yours,

*Evelyn H. Komedal*

January 18th, 1939

Miss Evelyn G. Komedal  
Prairie Bible Institute  
Three Hills, Alberta, Canada

Dear Miss Komedal:

I was very glad to receive your letter informing me of your willingness to substitute for Miss Bannan in the work on St. Lawrence Island during the year while she is taking her furlough. I shall write to Miss Bannan at once informing her of your willingness to go and I shall ask her to write directly to you giving you any details that she thinks you ought to have concerning the status of the work and the program which she would like you to carry on during her absence.

I hardly know what to offer you in the way of salary for your work. Miss Bannan's salary is \$720 per year. Of course we continue her salary during the period of her furlough. Would you be willing to accept the same salary as she is receiving? Of course we would pay your traveling expenses to St. Lawrence Island as well as your return expenses when Miss Bannan returns to the field.

I shall be glad to hear from you regarding these details of the arrangements.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:PDS

Northern Bible Institute  
Three Hills, Alberta  
Jan 29, 1939.

Dr J. M. Somerndyke  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr Somerndyke;

Am glad to receive your letter. I am willing that I should receive the same salary as Miss Bannon; \$720. a year and traveling expenses to and from the field. I do not know anything about the supplies. Does the board ship the groceries? What about fuel etc?

Does the missionary pay for them as well as the groceries?

Will Miss Bannon receive any mail before the ice breaks up in May or June? If not it might be possible that when I get back to Seattle that I could get in touch with her by amateur radio stations. That is of course, if

-2-

there are still teachers on St Lawrence who are amateur radio operators.

Dr Somerndike I do not know how much you heard about me when I was at Point Barrow. The Lord is directing me to a closer walk with Him - that I may do fruitful service for Him and not the kind of service I have done in the past. I have not truly placed Him on the throne of my heart before. My desire for the past three weeks has been to enter in and truly know Gal. 2:20 as a daily and continual experience, myself crucified and Christ living in me. I do look back on my Christian life with regret.

Since seeing this light it has become necessary to make several things right. I have this confession to make to you and the Board and I ask your

forgiveness.

While I was at Barrow there was a young archeologist there. He cared for me but I knew it was wrong for a Christian to be involved with a worldly man. He was attractive and had high ideals and after three months I gave in and we became engaged. Because he was climbing in scientific work and had not yet finished his education we expected to wait for 3 to 5 years to be married. For this reason we did not make it public and that made the situation worse because it looked from the outside like a trifling flirtation.

He arrived at Barrow the same summer that I did and left a year later. When he reached his home things looked even more impossible than they had before and so he wrote me that we would have to forget each other. That was the end - we have neither seen

each other <sup>now</sup> written since.  
It was very hard to take but  
I know that the Lord's hand  
was in "the breakup", bringing  
about circumstances that made  
it impossible for me to go so  
far out of his will. After four  
months I had complete victory  
over my sorrow and asked the  
Lord's forgiveness. I know He  
did forgive me but I have  
never acknowledged to others  
concerned, what wrongdoing I  
was guilty of.

I am afraid that it was a  
stumbling block to the natives  
at Barrow especially because  
of their weakness in character.  
I did see definite results in the  
work among the children even  
tho I felt this a drag on my  
spiritual life. But as for the  
older ones it, no doubt, hindered  
some or perhaps many. I have  
written a letter to one of the  
leading natives explaining and  
asking their forgiveness. Also  
admonishing them to let nothing  
keep them from God's best for them.

I am not worthy of the privilege of ministering at St. Lawrence but I should like so much to go and I am determined that by the Lord's strength I will cast all aside that I may be an empty vessel to which He can use to pour out living water to unsaved souls.

I shall be waiting to hear from you again.

Sincerely

Evelyn B. Comedal

P.S. The young man I have spoken of was from a Christian home, lived a clean life and had high ideals. I do not say this to excuse myself for I know that he knew the way of salvation but rejected Christ. ~~that means~~ I'm saying this just so that you will know that it was not a matter of stumping to one who lived an unclean life.

Feb.  
4th  
1939

Miss Evelyn G. Komedal,  
Prairie Bible Institute,  
Three Hills, Alberta, Canada

Dear Miss Komedal:

Replying to your letter of January 29th, I wish to say that Miss Bannan will leave some food supplies at the mission at Gambell and the new supply of foodstuffs which has been ordered by her for next year will be available for your use. These supplies will probably be brought up to Gambell by Capt. Backland in August.

I would suggest that you send Miss Bannan an air mail letter in the hope that it will reach her before she comes out.

With reference to payment for the groceries, we will have to deduct from your salary the cost of the food supplies that are delivered to you by Capt. Backland in August, just as we do in the case of all the other missionaries in the Alaska stations. This will be deducted from your salary in monthly installments.

I appreciate the spirit which prompted you to relate the circumstances of which I was not previously aware in connection with your personal affairs while at Barrow. I do not consider that these circumstances are any hindrance whatever to your continuance in Christian work. It is one of those things which might very easily happen in the life of any young woman, and I do not think that you should look back upon it with too much regret. On the contrary, I think that you should regard it as an experience in which through providential guidance you were delivered from what might have been an unhappy alliance.

It will be necessary for me to make arrangements to have you taken to St. Lawrence Island. I shall endeavor to secure accommodations for you on the government boat if at all possible.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

R. F. D. Winslow, Wash

April 17, 1939.

Dr. J. M. Somerndike  
156 5th Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr Somerndike;

I have inquired at the  
office of the Bureau of Indian  
Affairs and learned that the  
"North Star" leaves for St Lawrence  
Island on May 20th. I am  
wondering if that is the boat  
I am to take.

Also I would like to  
know if I could borrow \$188.  
against my salary. There  
are several things I will  
be needing and it is so  
hard to get things up there  
in the far north.

Wrote Miss Baunon by

air mail as you said  
but as yet have not heard  
from her.

Sincerely yours,  
Evelyn Komedal

Apr.  
27th  
1939

Miss Evelyn Komedal,  
R. F. D.,  
Winslow, Wash.

Dear Miss Komedal:

I have your letter of April 17th. Immediately upon its receipt, I wrote to Mr. Gould - our representative in Seattle to whom Dr. Somerndike delegated the responsibility for making your reservation on the "North Star" - inquiring just what he had been able to do in the way of arranging your passage. In a letter received today, Mr. Gould informs me that he has been endeavoring to contact the government representative in Seattle and is hoping to complete the arrangements for your trip within the next week. He will then write to you direct so that you will lose no time in making your plans.

As I wrote you on April 17th (in care of the Prairie Bible Institute) we have already placed on order the supplies which Miss Bannan recommended for your use. I am enclosing herewith a copy of this order for your information. If you desire to add to it, I would advise that you notify Mr. Gould at once. He may be addressed as follows:-

Mr. Gene C. Gould,  
1203 American Bank Bldg.,  
Seattle, Wash.

Miss Bannan suggested that you order fresh vegetables from Unalakleet in August, and that is the reason she listed only a few of the canned.

I am enclosing herewith the check for \$180 which you requested. This represents an advance on your salary which we have begun as of May 15th at \$60 per month. I trust this will be satisfactory.

If you are in need of any money for your expenses, do not hesitate to let me know.

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

1959 - FOODSTUFFS - Miss Evelyn Komedal, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska  
PERSONAL

6 lbs.		Sanka ✓
1 cs.	12/8 oz.	Instant Postum ✓
10 lbs.	Norm ls	Gold Shield, Coffee ✓
5 lbs.	1-lb. cans	Schilling, Orange Pekoe Tea ✓
3 sacks	50-lbs. each	Cane Sugar, granulated ✓
2 gunnies		Gold Medal, Flour ✓
5 pkgs.	2 lbs. each	Iodized Salt ✓
20 lbs.		Lima Beans - large
20 lbs.		Kidney Beans ✓
1 cs.		Darigold, Processed Eggs (in cartons)
1 keg	50 lbs.	" Butter (in brine) ✓
6 only	10-oz. each	Hormel Ham ✓
1 1/2 doz.	#1	Libby, Corned Beef ✓
1 1/2 doz.	#2	White Star Tuna ✓
12 cans	8 oz.	Happy Home Boneless Chicken ✓
4 only	4 lbs.	Rath, Whole Bacon ✓
5 lbs.		Kraft, American Loaf Cheese
2 doz.	12 1/2 lb. ctns.	" " " ✓
2 doz.	12 1/2 lb. ctns.	" Old English Cheese ✓
2 cs.	25 lbs.	Iris, Seedless Raisins ✓
1 cs.	30/40	Happy Home, Fr. Prunes ✓
5 lbs.	in carton	Fancy Muir Peaches ✓
5 lbs.	" "	" " Apples ✓
5 lbs.	" "	" " Apricots ✓
1 cs.	24/2	Happy Home, Grapefruit ✓
1 cs.		" " Grapefruit Juice, Unswt. #1 T, 9 1/2 oz.
1 cs.	24/2	" " " " Sweetened #2
1 cs.	10-oz. pkgs.	Dromedary Pasteurized Dates ✓
1 cs.	24/2	Brussels Sprouts ✓
1 cs.	24/2	Happy Home, Quartered Carrots #2 ✓
3 cs.	24/1	" " Tomato Juice ✓
9 cs.	tall	Carnation Milk ✓
1 cs.	6/6	Snowdrift ✓
1 cs.	6/2-lb.	Creamona Graham Crackers ✓
1 cs.	12/1-lb.	Salted Soda Wafers ✓
1 doz.		Puffed Wheat ✓
1 doz.		Rice Krispies ✓
1 1/2 doz.		Sperry Wheat Hearts ✓
1 1/2 doz.	12 oz.	Grape Nuts ✓
2 sks.	9s	Y. C. Meal ✓
1 cs.	18/12-oz.	Peterson, Rye Krisp ✓
25 lbs.		Little Buster, Pop Corn ✓
35 lbs.		Jumbo Roasted Peanuts ✓
1 cs.	24/2	Happy Home, Apple Sauce ✓
1 cs.	8 oz.	" " Tidbits ✓
1 cs.	24/2	Wild Blackberries
1 cs.	48/1	Campbell's Tomato Soup
1 cs.	24/2	Vegetable Salad

Sheet 2 - Foodstuffs - Miss Evelyn Komedal - Personal

1 cs.	pints	Happy Home, Mayonnaise
1 gal.		Cider Vinegar
1 can	8 oz.	Nutmeg
1 gal.		Upjohn's Cod Liver Oil
25 lbs.		Stick Candy
32 lbs.		Mixed Candy for Xmas.
1 bx.		Jersey Creams

1939 - MISCELLANEOUS - Miss Evelyn Komedal, Gambell, St. Lawrence Island,  
Alaska

PERSONAL

1000	2-lb. size	Madrona Bags
1 cs.	24	Happy Home Paper Towels
1 cs.	60/8 oz.	White King Granulated Soap

1939 - HARDWARE - Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska - MISSION

1 only                      5 gal.                      Oil Can

1 only                      3 ft.                      Hose Attachment for Horton Electric Washer - for  
emptying the washer

1939 - COAL, OIL, ETC. - Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska - MISSION

7 tons                      Coal ✓

20 drums                  Fuel Oil - SAME KIND AS LAST YEAR

Hambell, Alaska  
August 21, 1939.

Dr Everett B. King  
156 Fifth Ave.

New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr King;

Arrived at Hambell on August 8th. In three more days it would have been a month from the time I left Seattle. Had to wait two weeks and two days in Nome and finally got over on a Coast Guard cutter.

Miss Cannon had been waiting for me since spring and because of the irregularity and infrequency of boats she left on the same ship on which I arrived. Everything had been left in readiness for my arrival so all things have worked out nicely.

Am so happy with the task before me and expect to enjoy the winter. It will not be easy I know but what a joy to sow the precious seed of this Word and do this bidding.

Miss Hoppe sent me thirty  
dollars for incidental expenses.  
I used \$15.85. Rather than  
return the \$14.15 I would like  
to have it deducted from my  
salary. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Evelyn D. Komedal

For all by Jan  
Jan 10/1914  
the above  
amount

Sept.  
13th  
1939

Miss Evelyn G. Komedal,  
Campbell, St. Lawrence Island,  
Alaska

Dear Miss Komedal:

As you enter into your new work substituting for Miss Bannan, may I express my real hope and earnest prayer that the days ahead may be fruitful for our Christ and happy ones for you. It will be a great adventure, and I am sure it will leave its marks on your heart that you will carry with you throughout the days to come.

I shall be glad to hear from you when you begin your work properly.

Sincerely yours,

EBK:BH

Hamblett, Alaska.

Nov 4, 1939.

Dr E. B. King  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr King;

Everything is going along  
quite nicely here. The winter  
weather is setting in and it  
takes two fires to keep the  
(quarters) house comfortable.

The "Floper" has not yet  
arrived and we are hoping  
she will come real soon. For  
the ice may come in any time  
now. We are so glad that this  
does not mean the last mail  
winter since it has in former  
years. Plans are being establish-  
ed for these last winter  
during the winter.

Sat with a trusty four  
year old gin came and said the

wanted to become a Christian. Her old father is a Christian but her brother and his family (with whom she lives) holds on to the old pagan worship so this is a definite victory in that home.

A man about fifty who is ill has been concerned and we are hoping that he will very soon come to the Lord. How much we would like to "push" them but after all the relationship is only between the sinner and his Savior.

Miss Cannon asked me to send you this copy of the inventory. She also asked me to tell you what I think of the building.

For a forty year old building it is in good condition. This fact is largely due to all Miss Cannon has done to fix it up. The living quarters are not hard to heat. There are some

things about the building that are not satisfactory but there is not a crying need for a new building.

The upstairs is lined with paste board boxes. The windows (set in the roof - skylight style) leak much when it rains and there is considerable leaking around the stovepipes when it rains or snows. I cannot say just why but there is poor draft in the kitchen range and the soot collects in the stove and pipes surprisingly fast. Miss Cannon cleaned out all the pipes and smoke stacks once a week but I do not do it so often.

In the living quarters the place is so broken up that it is not at all restful. It seems that Miss Cannon likes it the way it is but it seems that everyone else feels like I do. However everything in

the living quarters is newly painted and clean looking.

I do feel that there is a crying need for an ordained minister who can administer the sacraments. These Christians have never partaken of communion. I believe it is necessary because it would mean more purity in their lives. Then of course our Lord commanded that it should be done and that believers should be baptized.

I wonder if you know that there is an ordained minister not far from here. (I do not want to make any suggestions which are out of order!)

He is a spiritual man and fundamental and works under the "Mission Friends" organization which was formerly called the Swedish Covenant Mission. He ministers to something like three mission stations and often stops

at home. A short trip out here  
would not seem much out of  
this way.

I do not know this man nor  
do I know anything about the  
rules regarding their ministry  
of this organization so all I  
have said is only suggestion.

According to the discipline of  
the church is a laymen never  
permitted to serve communion  
even in an isolated place like  
this one?

I am truly happy to be  
serving here. The spiritual  
becomes more of a reality away  
from all the commotion of civilization.  
I do regret that I am not better  
able to fill the place for there  
is a great need and it is a  
place of great privilege.  
It is a joy to see that vastly  
different as the Eskimo is from us  
still Christ becomes real and precious  
to the believer. Sincerely yours,

Ernest H. Komedal

Gambell, Alaska.

March 21, 1940.

Dr Everett King  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

missionary letter

Dear Dr King;

A few day ago I received a "ham" message from Miss Bannon that you were planning on coming to our island. On Sunday I announced the news in the meeting and there were many broad happy smiles. We are surely very thankful for this grand news.

Have taken part in mission work in four different sections of Alaska and nowhere have I seen a situation so ideal for missionary work. Not that all is perfect - that would be too much to expect - but it is surely very challenging. The prevalent problems of the Russian Church, liquor traffic and close contact with undesirable whites are not known here. Liquor was at one time brot over by Russians. In 1888 there was a famine in which three fourths of the islands population died. It was caused by drunkenness. (Drunken Eskimos don't hunt so they starved during the winter.) In recent years no alcohol has been used on the island.

Hunting conditions are good and the population sparse enough that those who hustle can get all they have need

of. of.

2.

Since January fifteenth about twenty young people have accepted Christ as their Savior. It has been a joyous privilege to see the change taking place in their lives. No "high pressure" methods have been used at all. Lessons and messages have been only simple and direct explanation of God's Word. The only invitations given in services have been assurances that I am always glad to talk over problems and help them in any need. These young people have come to my quarters saying they had sin in their life and wanted to know Christ. How many times my heart has rejoiced with them as their burden rolled away and "the peace that passeth all understanding" has dawned on their hungry hearts.

I cannot say for every one of them exactly but I know of several who have become true witnesses and others hearing their testimony have been moved to seek the Lord Jesus Christ. Oh that these things could be revealed to the many here who still worship idols and are dominated by superstition!

It is with much reluctance that I tell ~~they~~ following: I am not well and need medical treatment. It is an ailment I have had before but two years ago my doctor thought I would never again have this troubles. Between attacks am fairly well so am carrying on

as usual. In my experience nine years ago the attacks grew worse as time passed. For this reason I feel obliged to report to you when I would much prefer to be silent on the matter.

Miss Bannon spoke of my staying here longer than just this one year. If the Board has made a decision along that line I should be glad to stay if I could spend 3 or 4 months in home under medical treatment. I am very sorry. Miss Bannon surely deserves all of her furlough. I would regret very much if any one needs to be inconvenienced because of me, especially when the Board has asked my services for just one year.

No doubt you know Miss Bannon's work well. However, I would like to say that she has built up a fine foundation here for future work.

Best wishes for the success and ~~pleasant~~ enjoyment of your summer plans.

Sincerely yours,

Evelyn D. Komedal

P.S. On reading Miss Bannon's message over, I see you have already left for Alaska so will send this to Juneau.

R.F.D. Winelow, Wash.  
June 18, 1940.

Dr. Everett B. King  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

After a safe journey home  
am enjoying the warm weather  
and the sun.

It seems that the Hong  
doctor made a mistake. Have  
been to two excellent Seattle  
Doctors. It seems I do not need  
an operation, at all. Have a  
chronic intestinal condition  
from which recovery is usually  
slow.

It was a real disappointment  
to leave Alaska. However  
I do have much to be thankful  
for. (That I don't have to go to  
the surgery and that since  
I had to get sick that I have  
a quiet comfortable country home

in which to recuperate.)

The trip out was quite expensive inasmuch as I had to take two flights (San Francisco to Nome and Nome to Anchorage). However, I should be grateful to receive what my transportation amounted to on my way north last year and stand the rest of the expense myself.

I am very sorry that I could not have remained on the island until Miss Vernon arrived. The regular weekly services are continuously carried on by the Eskimo leaders. Two services were discontinued because of there being none who ~~are~~ were capable to handling them. They are the mid-week Bible study and choir practice. For all other services plans and suitable material was provided for each leader.

I flew from Dons to Anchorage. While at Anchorage visited with Mr. Cabbage. Also had a talk with Mr. Bing. Wish it could have been possible to see Mr. Frost before he left for St. Lawrence.

Perhaps you have already heard about the strange boats that prowled around Gambell last summer. The natives got quite sure that they were Japanese. Because they were built like a Japanese ship that stopped at Gambell in 1937. At that time they anchored and the natives went aboard. Last year they did not anchor but passed slowly within about one half mile of the village. This happened twice, the second time they came closer and passed slower than the first one. Just after this a big bonfire

4,

was seen down the coast from  
Gambell. It was at night  
and the fire was clearly seen  
by ~~all~~<sup>many</sup> in the village. It was  
thought that perhaps some Eskimo  
was in distress but it was soon  
proven that there were no Eskimos  
anywhere near this point.

No doubt you have also  
heard the late news regarding  
the Russian fortification of Big  
Diomedes Island.

What joy it is to stand on  
firm foundation in this day of  
peril and uncertainty. "And  
when these things begin to come to  
pass, then look up and lift up  
your heads for your redemption  
draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28)

Sincerely yours,

Evelyn H. Komedal

P.S.

June 19, 1940.

Yesterday as I was about to post this letter I received yours of June 13<sup>th</sup>.

I am at my parents home on Bainbridge Island, just across from the Seattle water front.

I haven't any definite plan for the future. I want to stay at home, of course, until I am really well.

I like to be in Alaska better than in the states. I have had difficulty with my health before and I don't want to go into any place that would be far from a good doctor or places so far north that the climate is severe. I would be interested in nursing at Sheldon Jackson School. I enjoy working with native young people.

E.K.

503 Bigelow Bldg.  
Seattle, Wash.

Aug 22, 1940.

Dr Everett B. King  
156 Fifth Ave  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr King;

I have been wondering  
if any plans have been  
decided in regard to the  
promotion work you spoke of.

I am improving gradually.  
My nerves have improved  
considerably. I am just  
hoping that it will not  
be long before I can start  
doing things again.

I have been thinking  
about going back to Prairie  
Bible Institute in January.  
(I was studying there when  
I received Dr Sommerdike's  
letter asking me to go to

Island.) I want very much to be there from January to the end of March.

Now I am wondering if there would be time to complete your itinerary before January if I do not start until about the middle of October.

I had a nice visit with Miss Bamson as she was leaving for the north. She looks so much better than last year. Also met the Klerkopers for the first time.

Sincerely yours,

Evelyn D. Komell